

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 748

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Doris Smith Demos of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Doris Smith Demos; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Demos was a prominent restaurateur, philanthropist, and distinguished businesswoman who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, as co-owner of the iconic Demos' Restaurant, her straightforward approach to life made an impression on all who knew her and helped establish the foundation of service that has led to the tremendous success of her famous food establishment; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Amos and Johnie Porter Smith, who preceded her in death, she was reared primarily by her loving grandfather during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Mrs. Demos learned the value of hard work at an early age while toiling from daylight until dark in the cottonfields of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, after marrying her beloved husband, Jim Demos, who had been in the restaurant business since the age of nine, she joined with him in his vision of opening a restaurant offering affordable, unique entrees made from family recipes, along with service exceeding customer expectations; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, after years of planning and hard work, Jim and Doris Demos opened the first Demos' Steak and Spaghetti House in Murfreesboro, and a legend was born; during the ensuing twenty years, Jim and Doris Demos also opened restaurants in downtown Nashville, Lebanon, Hendersonville, and Florence, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, through their exemplary efforts and strong work ethic, Jim and Doris Demos fulfilled their life-long dream, as Demos' Restaurant is a name associated with award-winning food and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, a shrewd businesswoman with tremendous acumen, Doris Demos was in charge of customer service for the restaurant and she developed most of the innovative service systems in place today at all Demos' Restaurants, helping create the quality and ambiance that Demos' customers have come to know and expect; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate woman with a fiery spirit, her philanthropy and generosity knew no bounds; she touched the lives of thousands through her altruism and benevolence, especially through her support of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter through the annual Whittlemania program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Demos was often fond of saying "good things make good things happen along with hard work," and the Demos' yearly efforts and support of Habitat for Humanity through the Whittlemania program have become the largest annual fundraiser for the local chapter of this esteemed charitable organization; and

WHEREAS, through the annual Whittlemania program, customers of Demos' Restaurant purchase a meal ticket allowing them to dine at any of the Demos' locations, with all proceeds from their purchase earmarked for the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house; and

WHEREAS, a true American patriot, she also adopted the 269<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company of the Tennessee Army National Guard based in Murfreesboro, providing meals for families of soldiers deployed overseas in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of her generous support of the troops and their families, Tennessee Adjutant General Gus Hargett presented Mrs. Demos with the Center of Influence Award; and

WHEREAS, a woman of tremendous faith, Mrs. Demos was an active and devout member of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Doris Demos enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Jim P. Demos; and

WHEREAS, she was the proud and loving mother of her son, Peter Demos and wife, Kristin, and her daughter, Felicia Demos; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Demos will be sorely missed by her grandchildren, Jamey Demos and Karys Demos; and

WHEREAS, she is further survived by her brother, James Smith and wife, Glenda; and

WHEREAS, Doris Demos will also be fondly remembered by a host of family, treasured friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Demos leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Doris Smith Demos, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Doris Smith Demos.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.